

**19-20 Abbeygate Street
BSE 442**

Archaeological Excavation/Monitoring Report

SCCAS Report No. 2014/062

Client: Mothersole Builders

Author: Andrew Tester

July 2014

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Prepared By: Andrew Tester

Date: July 2014

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Summary

The site stripping and the excavation of several large stanchions to support a building conversion and the infilling of an open yard at No.20 Abbeygate Street were archaeologically recorded by a combination of excavation and monitoring. The work took place behind the Georgian House which occupies the street frontage.

A total of eighteen pits (including at least three ovens) were identified in an area a little over 30 square metres with the majority dating from the 12th to 15th centuries. Many of these run beneath the timber extensions that began to appear from the 16th century and the ovens in the yard may well have been replaced by a kitchen extension (a Victorian range was extant in the middle extension when building work began). The size of the open yard was further reduced when a drain, built of mortar and with a peg tile base, was constructed alongside the neighbouring property to the east where it probably directed water, from an extension towards Abbeygate Street (the drain is likely to have ran either between two street front properties or beneath a covered passageway between the two). The timber extensions were retained when a single Georgian House was built over two medieval properties (No. 19 – 20) although the division has been reinstated in more recent times.

1. Introduction

An archaeological monitoring and limited excavation was carried out to the rear of 19-20 Abbeygate Street, Bury St Edmunds during construction work. The work took place during May 2014 responding to a condition on planning application SE/2013/0414 and a Brief prepared by Abby Antrobus of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team.

2. The Excavation

2.1 Site location, geology and topography

The site is located at TL 8541/6423 on the north side of Abbeygate Street, Bury St Edmunds. It lies on an east facing slope over the floodplain of the River Lark at c. 45m OD. Abbeygate Street is slightly lower than the houses on either side, possibly due to erosion through wear over the many centuries, and the drains on the site to the rear of the frontage were directed towards the street. Surface geology consists of drift deposits of sand and gravel over Cretaceous chalk bedrock (Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation, Newhaven Chalk Formation and Culver Chalk Formation, British Geological Society). Site conditions revealed orange silt and gravel natural with evidence of chalk beneath.

2.2 Archaeological and historical background

The first references to the town at Bury St. Edmunds record the establishment of a monastery there by King Siegbert of the East Angles who retired there in the AD 630's. The impetus for the growth of the settlement, however, seems to have been related to the importance of the shrine of St. Edmund, who was martyred by the Danes in AD869 and his body brought to Bury in AD903. The town is known to have had its own mint and market before the Norman Conquest and the name of the town was changed from Bedericsworth to Bury St. Edmunds during the 10th century (Statham 1988). It is thought that the Saxon town was centred towards St. Mary's Square and along the edge of the floodplain of the River Lark probably within the grounds of the Abbey; this remains unproven, however.

Following the Norman Conquest the shape of the town changed with the imposition of a plan which included a gridded pattern of streets over the rising ground in front of the Abbey Church, by Abbot Baldwin during the 1070s. The Abbey precinct was also enlarged over the grid in front of the Abbey, which can be seen in the interrupted alignment of Northgate Street and Southgate Street. In places, the street grid pattern is thought to have displaced earlier buildings but these were not thought to have extended as far to the west as High Baxter Street. With the Abbey at its heart, the town flourished with Bury becoming a centre for pilgrims visiting the shrine of St Edmund but it was also the site of an international market and the town grew in wealth alongside the success of the wool trade which prospered in East Anglia. Shop front space and accommodation in the centre of town was valuable. During the middle ages and up to the 18th century Abbeygate Street was known as Cooks Row (Statham 1988), probably a reflection of the service industry that predominated in the centre of the busy town.

There have been many sites recorded on the County HER but no excavation work has taken place on any scale on Abbeygate Street; however, two excavations were conducted on opposing sides of Upper Baxter Street, BSE 183 and BSE 202 (Fig.1). The latter site produced mainly pits of the medieval period, suggesting that the plot was associated with the Buttermarket, with a minor property on the site in the post-medieval period (Tester 2003). From BSE 183 (Tester 2001) there was a more complex sequence beginning with a solitary Early Saxon burial, dated by radiocarbon to the 7th century, and therefore predating the town plan, and continuing with early and later medieval houses fronting onto Baxter Street with various pits to the rear containing large quantities of animal bone and pottery. A stone built medieval drain was a feature of the site. A charcoal layer, which sealed most of the archaeological deposits dated from the 17th century is suggested to be evidence of the 'Great fire of Bury' which occurred in 1608 beginning in Mustoe Street and spreading as far as the Buttermarket, destroying at least 165 houses and accompanying buildings (Statham 1988). The present project offered a rare opportunity to establish whether the Great Fire reached Abbeygate Street at any point.

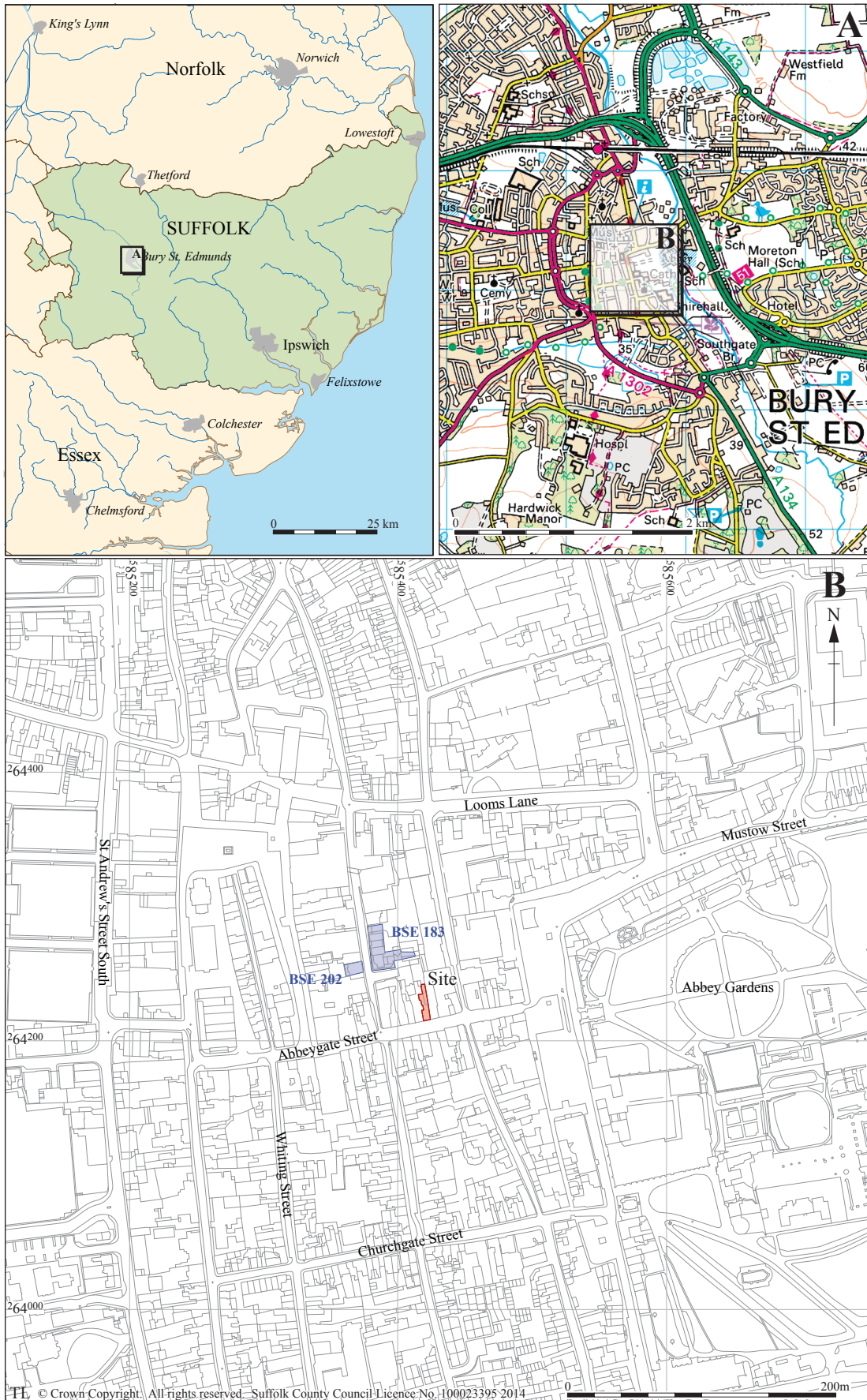


Figure 1. Location plan, showing development area (red)



Figure 2. Plan showing the development area and main areas of work

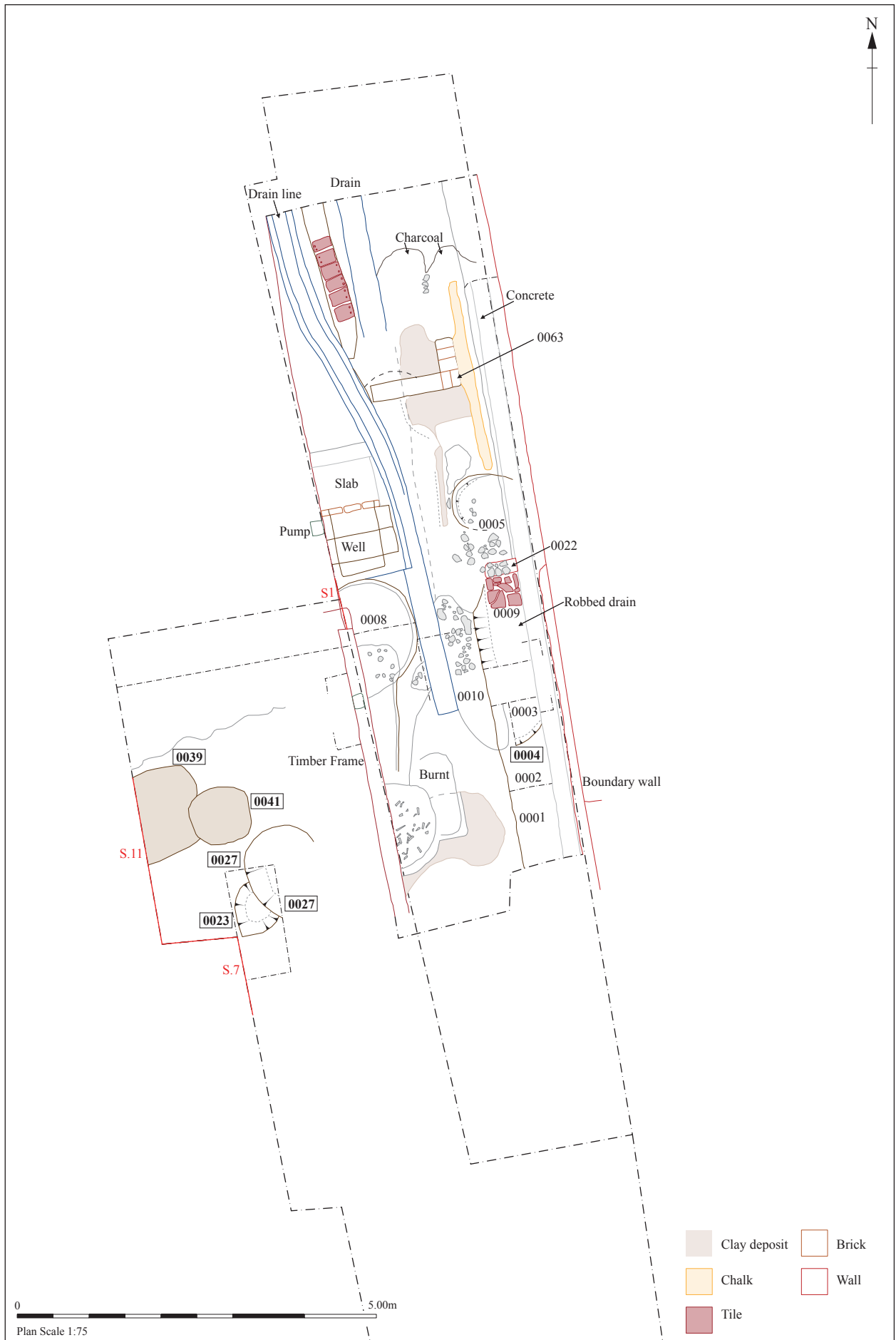


Figure 3. Surface plan and excavation plan within the kitchen extension (overlay plan for figures 4 and 5).

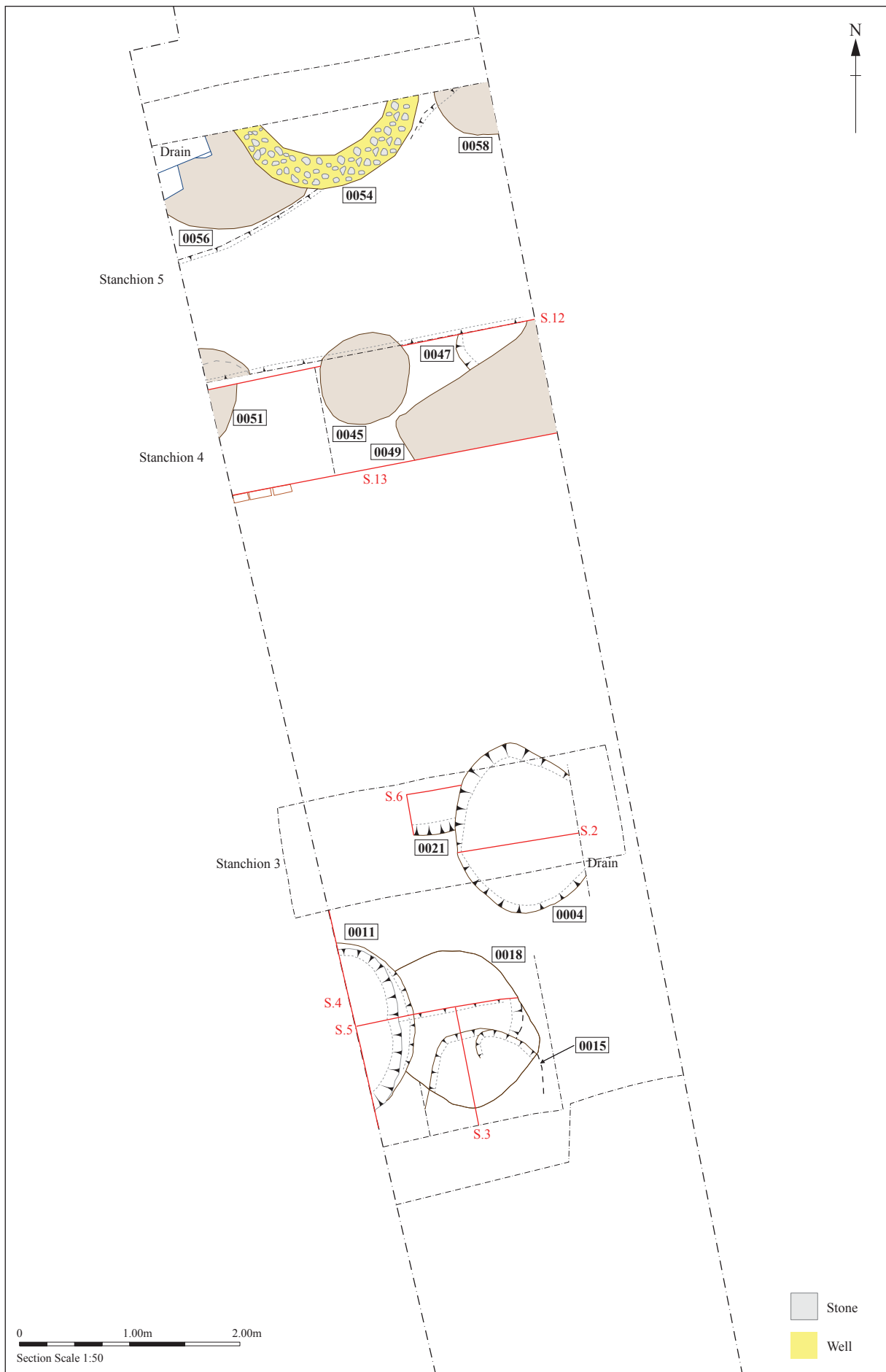


Figure 4. Excavation plan and plan of Stanchions 4 and 5

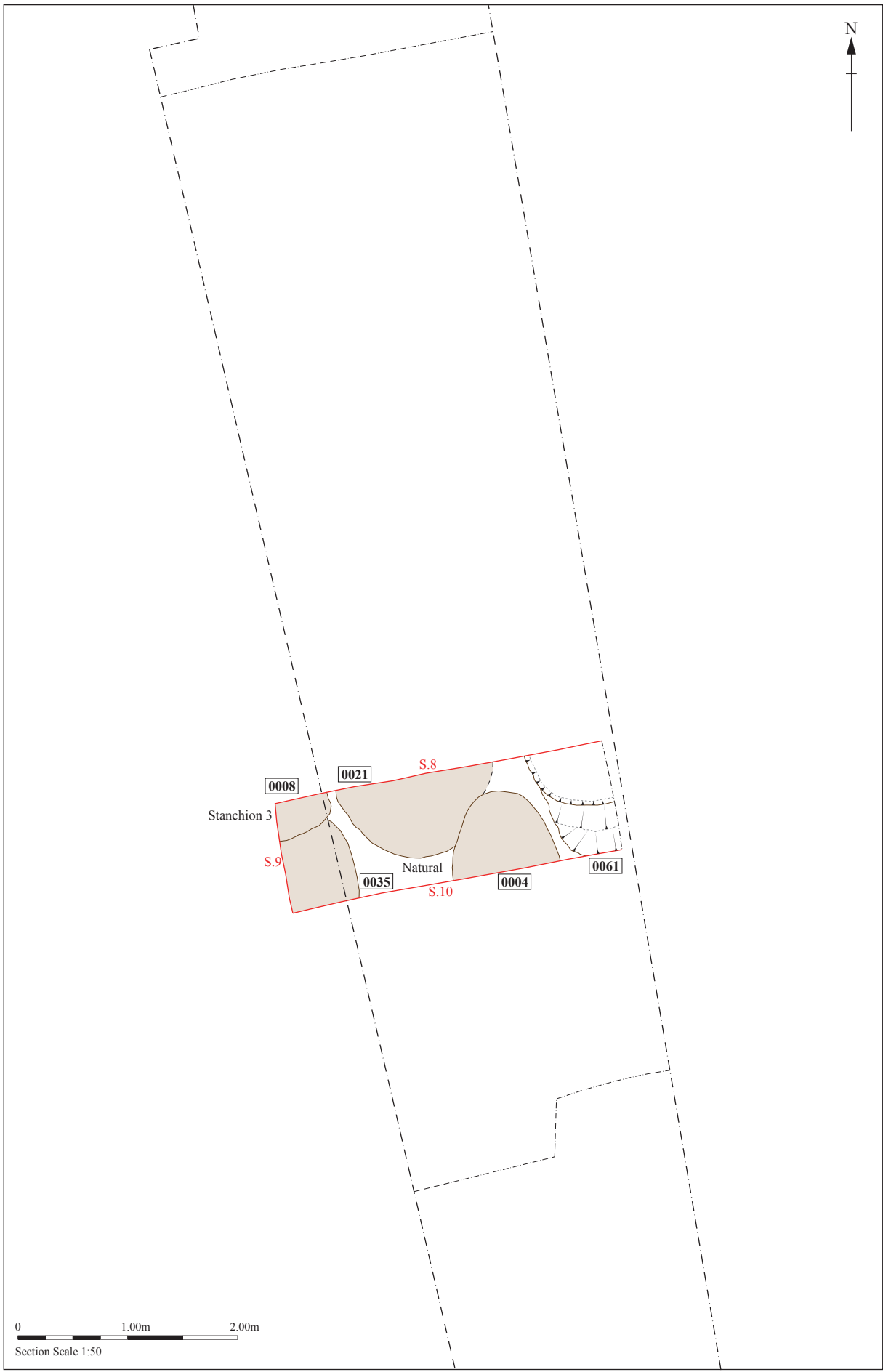


Figure 5. Excavation plan of Stanchion 2 (underlay plan for figure 4)

3. Methodology

The site was recorded with a combination of monitoring and excavation. The yard surface to the rear of the property was broken up and cleaned and planned. This was followed by a limited excavation of exposed features in the most vulnerable area of the site. Following this phase monitoring was carried out during further stripping and during the excavation of four stanchions excavated to support the new build. Selected sections were recorded and features planned but most of the excavation was carried out by the builders on site.

A single sequence numbering system was used for all contexts and digital colour photographs were taken of all stages of the fieldwork, and these are included in the archive. Site data has been input onto an MS Access database and recorded using the Historic Environment Code (HER) BSE 422. The drawings were all made at a scale of 1:20 and have been scanned and digitised. An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference suffolkc1-177157) and a digital copy of the report submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database.

4. Results

The site recording was carried out by a combination of limited excavation, which took place towards the southern end of the site and the monitoring of building work, particularly the excavation of five stanchions. This work was carried out by the builders, much of it by hand, and finds recovery was therefore restricted although it is suggested that no major finds groups went unnoticed during this phase.

The results of the excavation indicate intense activity during the medieval period with numerous pits and ovens on the site with several stratigraphic relationships. Evidence for the development of the site is also provided by the standing buildings; the street frontage is covered by a brick building, which is entirely Georgian, and includes the width of two medieval plots; a sequence of timber extensions to the rear date to a time when the site was divided into two properties. The Georgian House is now divided into No.19 and 20 Abbeygate Street. On the Warren map of 1747 a single plot extends back from the Georgian frontage. The current works are concentrated on the eastern plot, conforming to the medieval division of the site.

4.1 Phase 1: Middle Saxon (AD720-850)

A single sherd of Gritty Ipswich ware was recovered from pit 0015. This lies well beyond the area suggested to be occupied at that date, which was probably concentrated in the area of the monastery and possibly St Mary's Square although this is largely conjecture. It may have been dumped with manure, entering the pit when the ground was re-worked.

4.2 Phase 2: Medieval (12th-15th century)

4.2.1 Introduction

Features suggested to be from this broad medieval phase are described stratigraphically and from south to north across the site. Stanchion 1 impinged on pit 0015 but was otherwise cut through natural silt and gravel and was not separately recorded; the location is indicated on figure 3.



Plate 1. Area of excavation looking north, with the chalk cap of pit 0018 in the foreground cut by pit 0011 to the west (2m scales)

Pit 0018

(Fig. 4 and 6)

This pit was oval in shape with vertical sides measuring 1.6m x 1.2m and excavated to a maximum depth of c. 0.6m. The upper fill, 0013, appeared to be an accumulation of horizontal deposits, which had slumped into the void created by a chalk cap that had settled vertically into the pit. The chalk was at least 0.25m thick and it seems likely, from the appearance of the slumped chalk cap, that this pit was more than 2m deep. Pit 0018 was cut by medieval pits 0015 and 0011 and produced five sherds of medieval pottery dated 12th to 14th century.

Pit 0015

(Fig. 4 and 6)

This pit was approximately circular in shape measuring 1m across and was 0.5m deep from the excavated surface. It had a homogenous fill of fire reddened yellow clay mixed with silt and some ash. The relationship with the slumped fill of pit 0018 was uncertain, partly due to the burning associated with pit 0011, which obscured the stratigraphy, although it is suggested to be later. It produced fifteen sherds of 12th to 14th century pottery.

Pit 0011

(Fig. 4 and 6)

Pit 0011 was 1.4m wide where it ran beneath the wall line of the second timber extension projecting approximately 0.7m eastward onto the site. The pit contained large amounts of unfired clay containing substantial flints, and a layer of pegtiles in the upper fills. The consolidated appearance of the pit fill during excavation was suggestive of deliberate packing although the tiles formed a distinct deposit. The eastern edge of the pit was characterised by intense burning, which extended up to 0.5m into the fill of pits 0018 and 0015, which it cut. On the surface plan the burning pattern was rectangular (Fig. 3). From this evidence it is suggested that the pit had functioned as an oven at some stage, possibly with a superstructure on the eastern lip, which had been removed during demolition leaving the fire reddened base undisturbed. No significant pottery was recovered from this feature despite hand excavation and this is more consistent with deliberate backfilling rather than gradual infilling. A copper alloy mount, SF1001,

was recovered from fill 0012. The mount dates to the 13th-14th century, although they are sometimes found in the 15th century (Andrew Brown, pers. comm). The sample of pegtiles retained have been dated from the 13th to 15th centuries. While not exclusively used for roofing it seems reasonable to speculate that the tiles are evidence that these were used in preference to thatch on Abbeygate Street, or Cooks Row as the street was known in the medieval period. The risk of fire was ever present in the medieval town with fires and ovens in proximity with closely built inflammable buildings.



Plate 2. Looking east over the fired edge of pit 0018 with pit 0011, partially backfilled, in the foreground (1m scale)

Two stanchions were positioned astride of the connection above ground between the first and second timber extensions on the end of Georgian brick building. The first of these revealed natural gravel to the east of pit 0018. This would have lain beneath the course of medieval drain 0009 that is discussed below. The opposing stanchion was positioned beneath the standing building.

4.2.2 Stanchion 2: Pits 0023 and 0027

Pit 0023

(Figs. 3 and 6)

Pit 0023 was positioned beyond the northern edge of the first timber extension to the building. It was oval in shape measuring c. 1m x 1.4m and was a little over 1m deep. The pit was filled with red/brown silt. Towards the base there were large fragments of a single pot; which we can assume had not travelled far otherwise the individual sherds would have become separated, and can therefore provide a probable date for when the pit was backfilled. The pot has been dated to the 12th to 13th centuries. The pit was partially sealed by chalk surface 0025.

Internal floor 0026

(Fig. 6)

Surface 0026 was made of compressed earth with some clay with lenses of burnt material beneath 0026, that overlies natural gravel; it is demonstrated in the section that this 'floor' extended beyond the upstanding connection between the first and second timber extensions (the cut-off base of the two timbers which represent the end of one extension and the beginning of the other, have been projected backwards onto the section drawing for illustrative purposes). From pit 0023 and the stratigraphy in the section we can suggest a date at least as early as the 11th to 13th century for internal floor 0026 and for the extent of the timber building at that date. It is interesting to note that pits 0015 and 0018, which were approximately on a parallel with pit 0026 back from the street frontage are dated 13th to 14th and 12th to 14th respectively; neither of these pits was beneath any of the existing extensions, however.



Plate 3. Section 7 (Stanchion 2) looking northwest showing rammed earth floor 0026 above natural gravel with chalk 0025 beyond above pit 0023

Pit 0027

(Fig. 3 and 7)

Pit 0027 was slightly oval in shape measuring c.1.2 x 1m (it was encountered on the surface later in the fieldwork when the floor of the extant kitchen extension was broken up) and at least 1m deep. It was filled with homogeneous green brown silt with chalk. It cut pit 0023 and may have cut chalk surface 0025 although this was not proven in the haste of the excavation.

Chalk surface 0025

(Fig. 7)

Only a glimpse of this deposit was seen where it was lower than floor surface 0026 and it is suggested to be outside that phase of building. It is uncertain whether it represented yard consolidation or was itself part of an internal floor.

Pits 0039 and 0041

(Figs. 3 and 7)

Following the removal of an internal hard floor beneath the extant timber extension limited hand cleaning took place during monitoring of construction. Two pits were visible against natural subsoil in an area. Pit 0039 was sub-rectangular c.1.3m wide and cut by circular pit 0041, which was 1m across.

Surface 0044

The western internal wall of the second timber extension (Fig. 7 section 11) lay on a wooden sill. Beneath this was a compacted clay floor 0044 which sealed pit 0039.

4.2.3 Stanchion 3: Pits 0035, 0032, 0061 0021, 0004 and oven 0008

This area of the site, corresponding to the location of clay oven 0008 and surface 0010, robber trench 0001 and pit 0004 (Plan figures 3, 4, and section sheet 6) was partially hand excavated before an east-west stanchion was excavated extending beyond the width of the modern yard and partly beneath the above ground timber extension to the west (plan figures 5 and sections sheets 6 and 7).

Pit 0035

(Fig. 5 and 7))

Pit 0035 lay at the base of the stratigraphy and below the outer wall line of the timber extension. Most of this pit lay beyond the excavation and it was partially removed by the overlying pit sequence; it is suggested to have been in excess of 1.2m wide and was at least 1.5m deep, the depth of the Stanchion; the turning in of the side in section 8 (Fig. 6) suggests that this was close to the full depth. The upper fill had been removed but beneath this fill 0037 was largely filled with natural gravel which appeared to merge gradually into a lower fill with some charcoal and a green/brown silt which is suggested to be the remains of cess. It was not hand excavated and no finds were recovered, although none was visible during section cleaning and they cannot have been plentiful. It was cut by probable oven 0032.

Pit/oven 0032

(Fig. 5 and 7)

Pit or oven 0032 was cut into the top of pit 0035. It only appeared in section obscured by oven 0008. It was at least 1.5m deep and had a formed lining of yellow clay, 0038 that was c. 0.15m thick. A break or worn area in the base of 0038 contained a concentrated deposit of burnt grain, 0033, which was sampled. Over this was fill 0034 that contained a high proportion of mixed clay with some silt. A single potsherd recovered during sieving of context 0033 was dated 12th-13th century. The grain was largely barley and is likely evidence that 0032 was the remains of a malting oven.



Plate 4. Section 9 looking west, the chalky clay lining of pit 0032 is clearly visible with the base of overlying clay oven, 0008, at the top of the frame.

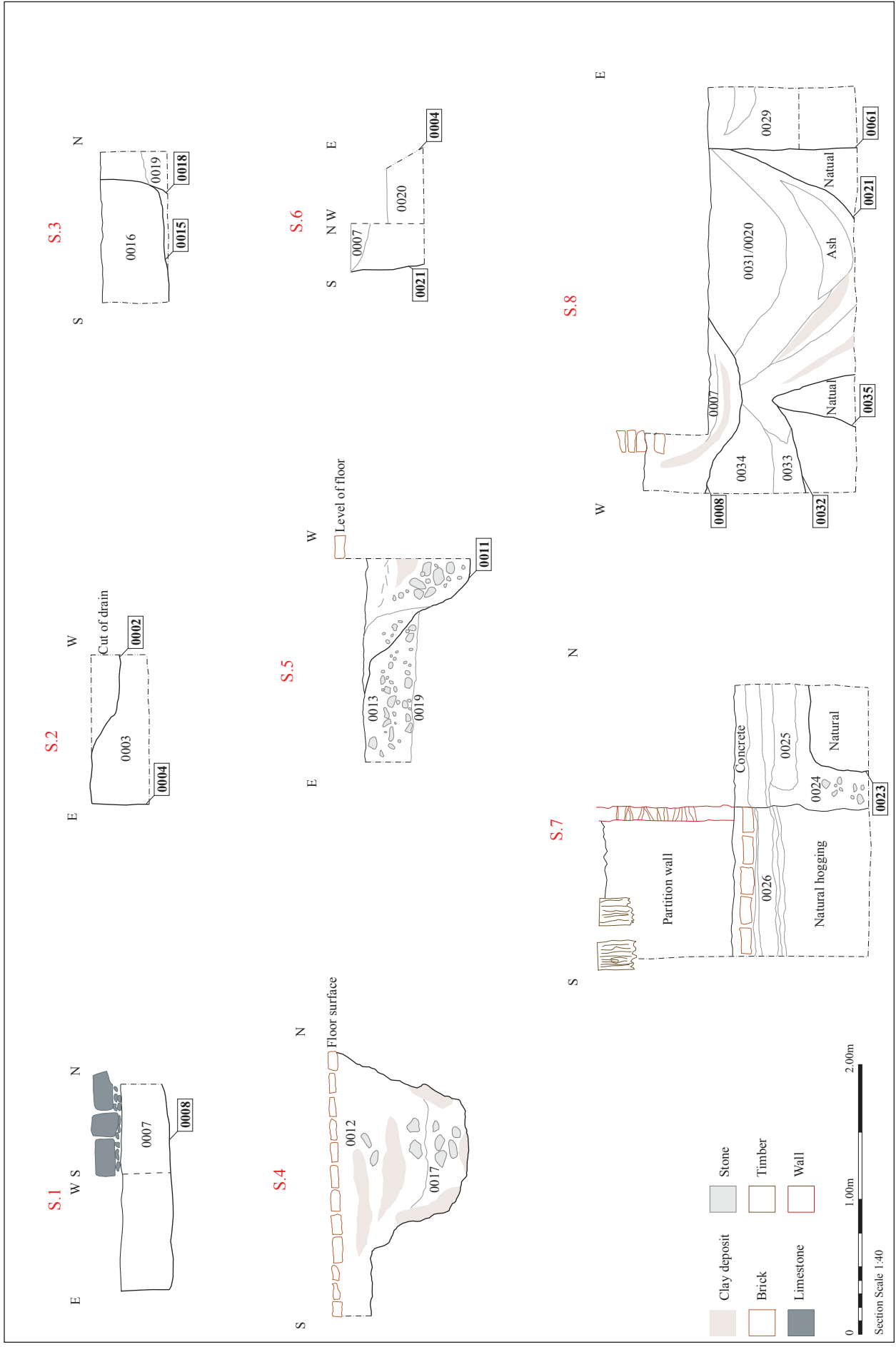


Figure 6. Sections 1-8

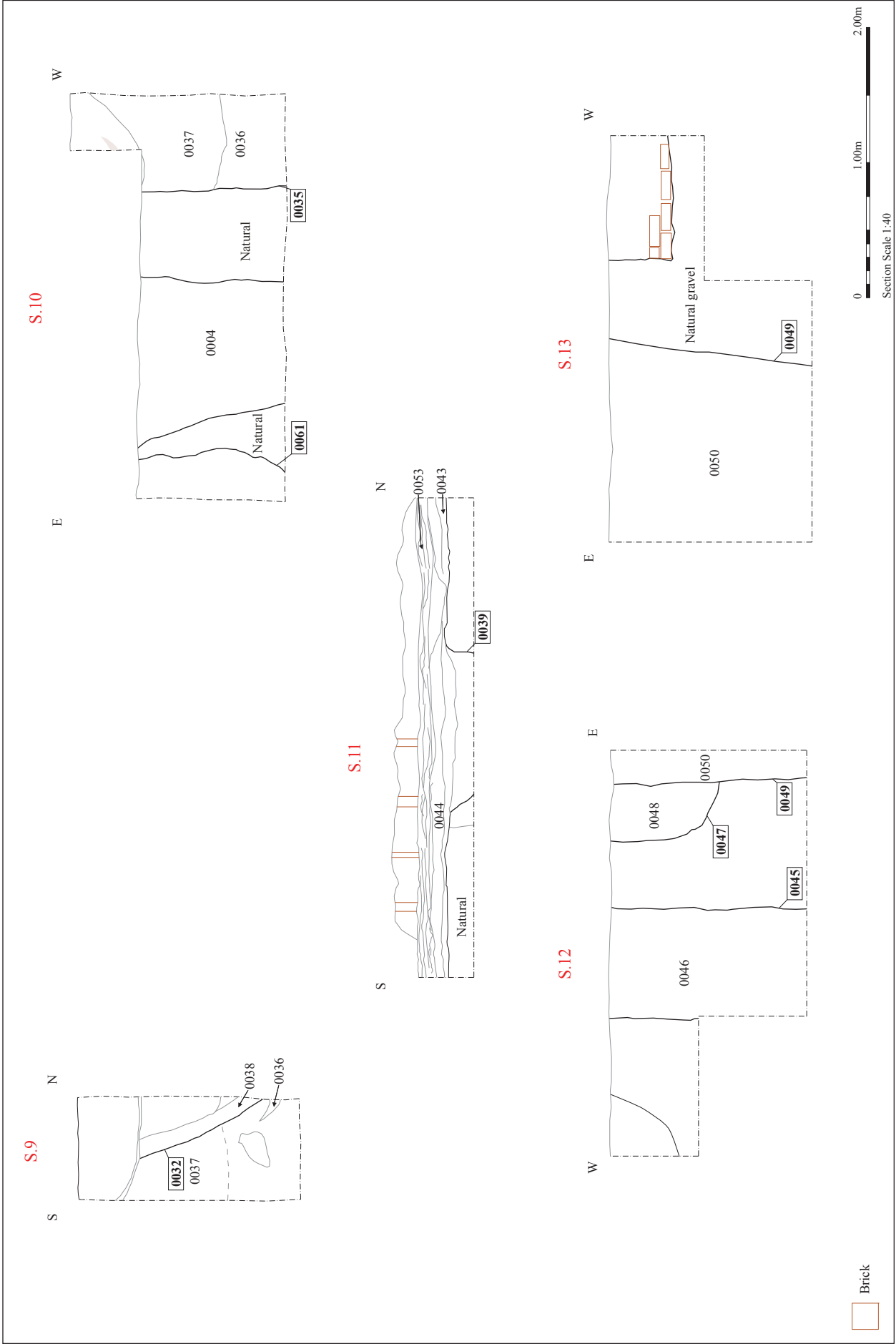


Figure 7. Sections 9-13

Oven 0008

(Figs. 3 and 6)

The oven was aligned north south and was beneath the wall line of the second timber extension. It was c.3m long with a 1.5m wide circular bowl that had vertical sides and was c.0.6m deep; the flue tapered off towards the southern end. At least one rebuild was visible in section within the central bowl.

Pit 0021

(Fig. 4, 5, 6 and 7)

Adjoining pit 0032 was pit 0021; the relationship between the oven and pit was not clear (see section 8); Pit 0211 was at least 1.8m wide and over 1.5m deep and contained a large amount of chalk with layers of ash and various bands of charcoal and brown silt. A small amount of medieval pottery was recovered and an intrusive post-medieval tile fragment. 0021 was cut by pit 0004.



Plate 5. Looking south, the bowl of oven 0008 at the last phase. Limestone, probably robbed from the Abbey ruins, provides the footings for an extension (1m scale)

Pit 0061

(Figs. 4, 5, 6 and 7)

Pit 0061 was not fully exposed, extending beyond the present property on the eastern side and not fully exposed during excavation to the north. The side sloped from the south with a more vertical drop suggested towards the centre of the pit, which was towards the northern extent. It was in excess of 1.5m deep from the excavated surface. It was filled with a fairly uniform green/brown silt with small flints and occasional chalk. It was cut towards the surface by pit 0004 and sealed beneath robber trench, 0002, from medieval drain 0009. It was not hand excavated and a few fragments of post-medieval tile were intrusive, probably from the robber trench, 0002.

Pit 0004

(Figs. 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7)

Pit 0004 was roughly circular measuring 1.5m across and in excess of 1.5m deep. The upper 0.5m was carefully hand excavated and the remainder was exposed when the stanchion was excavated. It had a mid-grey/brown silt fill that was fairly homogenous. It is reasonably well dated with thirty one sherds of pottery dating from the 13th to 14th centuries and was sealed by the robber trench for drain 0009.

In summary (see the site matrix Appendix 3) on the western side of Stanchion 3 the stratigraphy reveals oven 0008 underlying and therefore earlier than the building extension and above oven 0032, and pits 0035 and 0021; on the eastern side the sequence runs medieval drain 0009, pit 0004, pit 0021 and pit 006. The *in situ* tiles from drain 0009 are 13th -15th century and the pottery from pit 0004 securely dated 13th to the 14th century; pits 0021 and 0061 are therefore either 13th to 14th century or earlier.

Drain 0009 and wall 0022

(Fig. 3)

Parallel with the end of the second of the standing timber extensions, and with a similar extension attached to the building to the east was a short length of solid flint and mortar, 0022, marking the head of a tile-based drain 0009. Two tiles recovered at the head of the drain date from the 13th -15th centuries. The mortar was only c. 0.2m deep, 0.2m wide and did not extend beyond the head of the drain. The drain ran towards Abbeygate

Street although most of it was robbed out in the post-medieval period, cut 0001. The robber trench was more than 0.7m wide (the eastern limit was not exposed). From this we can suggest that the drain was contained by flint and mortar, which was removed during robbing along with the tile base. During excavations on Upper Baxter Street a similar style of drain directed towards Baxter Street from the back of the property ran beneath a passageway between buildings presumably being covered by timber boarding (Tester 2001, 8); the tiles were dated to the late medieval period and that drain was sealed by debris from the 'Great fire of Bury' that occurred in 1608. Post-medieval tile fragments are likely to have contaminated the upper fills from earlier pits beneath the course of the drain.



Plate 6. Looking north, with the flint and mortar head of drain 0009 and a couple of surviving medieval tiles; the wall of the neighbouring property is on right (0.3m scale)

The area between Stanchions 3 and 4 was not excavated, but a spread of cobbles, 0010, cut on the eastern edge by robber trench 0001 occupied the middle of the trench

and an area north of drain head 0022. The outline of a pit 0005 was visible beyond this but remains unexcavated.

4.2.4 Stanchion 4-5

(Fig. 4)

Two stanchions were excavated separately during building work eventually joining up on the line of section 12 (see Fig. 4). The site was levelled by the builders to the rear and sections 12 and 13 were all dug from up to 0.6m below the naturally rising ground surface towards the north end of the site.

Pit 0047

(Fig. 4 and 7)

Pit 47 was only partially exposed in section, having been mostly removed by pit 0049 and as it was only c. 0.9m deep. It contained a green/brown silt fill with layers of soot inbetween. Five sherds of pottery were dated 12th to 14th century.

Pit 0045

(Fig. 4 and 7)

This pit was circular and just 0.8m across although the sides were vertical and it was over 1.4m deep. It contained a uniform green/brown silt fill likely to represent cess. It was largely excavated by machine and by shovel during construction and no finds were recovered.

Pit 0049

(Fig. 4 and 7)

Only one corner was located but it suggests that this pit was rectangular and was at least 1.8m long, 1m wide and over 1.5m deep. It contained a mixed fill with layers of clay and chalk between brown silt. Finds included a small collection of animal bone along with oyster shells and some whelks. It was not hand excavated and this represents a sample only of the likely finds. A small collection of pottery and tile is dated to the 12th to 14th century. Recovered from the section was a large discarded mortar (SF1002) which was made of shelly limestone, probably from Purbeck and it had a

worn-smooth internal surface and the walls themselves were quite thin. It is also likely to be medieval in date (see finds section below).

Pit 0051

Pit 0051 appeared in both Stanchions 4 and 5. It was mostly beneath the building to the west was probably circular and in excess of 1.5m across at the surface but it sloped inward, probably terminating a little below 1.5m. The section showed a green/brown fine silt fill. It was largely excavated by machine and there were no finds recovered.

Pits 0056 and 0058

The northern end of Stanchion 5 was only partially reduced with a deliberate attempt not to destabilise well 0054. These two pits were therefore mostly recorded photographically and in plan during site monitoring. Pit 0056 was at least 1.2m wide and filled with a mixture of clay and silt which was grey/brown in colour. It was cut by well 0054. Pit 0058 appeared in the northeast corner of the trench; the extent and depth of this probable pit could not be determined; it clearly extended eastward beneath the present plot boundary and was cut by well 0054. It had a grey/brown silt fill.

Well 0054

Well 0054 was circular and centrally located within the yard and c.1.7m across with walls approximately 0.25m thick made of orange mortar with medium sized flints c.0.05m across. The central fill was of dark sandy/silt with occasional tile fragments. From the very distinctive orange mortar it is suggested that this feature was either late medieval or possibly early post-medieval in date although no finds were recovered.

A well in this location must have been many metres deep and no small enterprise to excavate. It is likely, however, that the walling construction extends only as deep as solid chalk from where a straight unlined shaft would have been dug.



Plate 7. Looking north at well 0054 partially exposed in section

4.3 Phase 3: Later post-medieval

Surprising few features are represented for this period reflecting a clear change in site usage, and these are described in summary fashion.

A sequence of three drains were partially traced running the length of the yard and directed southward (Fig.3). The latest of these, shown curving across the site in figure 3, had a ceramic pipe and was clearly recent, emptying into a large post-medieval well that was positioned immediately to the south of the excavation area (not illustrated); the earliest drain had a lining of pegtile. The latest drain avoided an extant brick lined well, which was against the wall of a stone and brick extension and was serviced by an *in situ* pump stood against the wall. A course of bricks, 0063, arranged in an 'L' shape towards the rear of the monitored area is likely to be the footing for an ephemeral structure of relatively modern date.

5. The finds evidence

5.1 Introduction

The table below shows the finds collected from the monitoring by context.

Context	Pottery		CBM		Fired clay		Animal Bone		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0003	31	467								13th-14th C
0007	4	52								L12th-14th C
0009			13	2265						13th-15th C
0012			16	1036			3	29	3 oyster @ 12g	13th-15th C
0013	5	32	5	214	2	46	2	16		L12th-14th C
0016	15	139					2	76		L12th-14th C
0017	1	3*					7	6	*From sample	L11th-13th C
0024	13	218			6	6	6	62		12th-14th C
0029	4	102	14	1153			5	217	1 lavastone frag @ 313g	Med med/post-med cbm
0031	5	104	1	28			1	9		Med with post-med cbm
0033	1	26*							*From sample	L11th-13th C
0048	6	202					3	4		12th-14th C
0050	6	112	2	48			13	200	3 whelk shells @ 10g	12th-14th C
Total	91	1457	51	4744	8	52	42	619		

Table 1. Finds quantities

5.2 Pottery

Sue Anderson

5.2.1 Introduction

A total of eighty-nine sherds of pottery weighing 1428g was collected from eleven contexts, with a further two present in the finds recovered from the samples. Table 2 shows the quantification by fabric; a summary catalogue by context is included as Appendix 1.

Description	Fabric	Code	No	Wt/g	Eve	MNV
Gritty Ipswich Ware	GIPS	2.31	1	12		1
Medieval coarseware	MCW	3.20	9	226	0.10	6
Medieval coarseware gritty	MCWG	3.21	1	17		1
Grimston coarseware	GRCW	3.22	4	51		3
Bury sandy fine ware	BSFW	3.31	2	33		2
Bury coarse sandy ware	BCSW	3.32	2	14		2
Bury medieval coarseware	BMCW	3.33	49	811	0.32	34
Bury medieval coarseware gritty	BMCWG	3.34	5	20		2
Bury medieval shell-dusted ware	BMSW	3.53	1	18		1
Hedingham coarseware	HCW	3.43	3	46	0.12	2
Hedingham coarseware (fine variant)	HCWF	3.431	1	2		1
Unprovenanced glazed	UPG	4.00	3	46		3
Grimston-type ware	GRIM	4.10	2	34		2
Hedingham Ware	HFW1	4.23	5	91		5
French Wares	FREN	7.30	1	7		1
Total			89	1428	0.54	66

Table 2. Pottery quantification by fabric

5.2.2 Methodology

Quantification was carried out using sherd count, weight and estimated vessel equivalent (eve). The minimum number of vessels (MNV) within each context was also recorded, but cross-fitting was not attempted unless particularly distinctive vessels were observed in more than one context. A full quantification by fabric, context and feature is available in archive. All fabric codes were assigned from the author's post-Roman fabric series, which includes East Anglian and Midlands fabrics, as well as imported wares; full descriptions will be provided in the final report. Form terminology for medieval pottery is based on MPRG (1998). Recording uses a system of letters for fabric codes together with number codes for ease of sorting in database format. The results were input directly onto an Access database.

Some additional sherds of pottery were recovered through the process of environmental sampling. Only the ceramics found in contexts which had no pottery from hand-collection were included here, to provide dating evidence for the feature. These sherds are not included in Table 2.

5.2.3 Pottery by period

Middle Saxon

A single body sherd of Ipswich Ware (gritty type) was a residual and abraded find from pit fill 0016. This is an unusual find from the town, with no examples coming from the central area in recent years. The Middle Saxon area is thought to be located to the west of the town, around St Mary's Square, and the majority of Ipswich Ware from recent fieldwork has come from sites in that vicinity (e.g. Anderson 1996 and 1997), and these have all produced less than ten sherds each.

Medieval

Eighty-eight sherds of medieval date are represented in the assemblage, the majority being body and base sherds. 'Bury wares' are the most frequent; these are the common fabric groups from the town (described in Anderson 2001), although no kilns are currently known and some may have been made outside the town. Other known sources such as Grimston and Hedingham are represented amongst both the coarse and glazed wares. A number of unsourced medieval coarsewares are also present, mainly in fine or medium sandy fabrics with few other inclusions, and probably of local manufacture.

Only four rims are present amongst the coarsewares, all jars. A substantial proportion of the base and body profile of another vessel could also be classified as a jar. Rim forms include flat-topped everted, flat-top beaded, and everted beaded, suggesting a broadly 13th/early 14th-century date range for the identifiable vessels, although some of the fabrics are probably of 12th/13th-century date. Decoration was minimalist but included three examples of applied thumbed strips, one of incised wavy lines, one sherd with a line of finger-nail impressions on the shoulder, one shell-dusted vessel, and two of thumbing on the rim. One vessel had a large cordon on the base angle, which showed a high degree of use-wear.

Glazed wares represent 12.5% of the medieval assemblage by sherd count. This is comparable with a nearby site on High Baxter Street (Anderson 2001; BSE 183: 14%), but less than was found at the Angel Hotel (Anderson 2000; BSE 168: 29%). Generally the proportion of glazed wares is greater towards the centre of the town and at high

status ecclesiastical sites such as the Cathedral and St Saviours, but the proportions also vary depending on the date of the assemblage.

Hedingham Ware is the most frequent glazed ware in this group and includes fragments of jugs decorated with applied strips, applied pellets or brown slip lines under light green or orange lead glazes. Grimston ware is represented by a body sherd with the typical lead green glaze, and a base sherd with green glaze internally and burning externally, probably part of a dripping pan. A base fragment of a ?French whiteware with a flat base and cordon was found in oven fill 0007.

Three glazed wares are unprovenanced, all body sherds. One from pit fill 0003 is a fine sandy orange ware with very fine calcareous inclusions visible under magnification, and spots of clear lead glaze externally. A second from 0003 is a whiteware with fairly coarse orange clay pellet inclusions and copper green glaze externally, possibly French or a late medieval English ware. There is also a large sherd from a carinated jug, found in oven fill 0007, which is in a similar fabric to 'Yarmouth-type' glazed ware or possibly Grimston ware (medium sandy with occasional ferrous inclusions, both surfaces oxidised) and is decorated with applied curving strips and brown slip lines under a decayed green glaze.

5.2.4 Pottery by context

A summary of the pottery by feature is provided in Table 3.

Feature	Context	Type	Fabric	Spot date
0004	0003	Pit	MCW BCSW BMCW BMCWG HFW1 UPG	13th-14th c.
0004	0024	Pit	BMCW BMCWG	12th-13th c.
0008	0007	Oven	BMCW GRIM FREN UPG	L.12th-14th c.
0018	0013	Pit	GRCW BMCW	12th-13th c.
0015	0016	Pit	GIPS GRCW BMCW MCWG HCWF HFW1 GRIM	13th-14th c.
0021	0031	Pit	GRCW BMCW BMSW	12th-13th c.*
0047	0048	Pit	MCW BMCW	12th-14th c.
0049	0050	Pit	MCW BMCW BSW	13th-14th c.?
0061	0029	Pit	HCW HFW1	M.12th-13th c.*

Table 3. Pottery types present by context/feature

Note: spotdates do not take into account any other find types. * later CBM present

Most of the pottery came from pit fills, with the largest quantities being recovered from pits 0004 and 0015 (24 and 15 sherds respectively). There appears to be little residual

material from any of the contexts, with the exception of the Ipswich Ware sherd. However, two pits (0021, 0061) contained later CBM and the medieval sherds from these pits are likely to be residual.

5.2.5 Discussion

Apart from a single sherd of of Middle Saxon date, the pottery recovered from the site is all of medieval date. No Late Saxon or early medieval wares were identified, suggesting that the plot may not have been in use (at least for the disposal of rubbish) before the 12th century.

Several pits and the oven are likely to belong to the high medieval phase of activity. The range of coarse and glazed wares is as expected for a medieval site in Bury, being dominated by the local fabrics with a mixture of wares from further afield. Only a few forms could be identified, but all were consistent with a 13th or early 14th-century date, whilst some of the coarse fabrics and the shell-dusted ware indicate slightly earlier activity. There is no definite late medieval pottery, although one sherd of unprovenanced whiteware from pit 0004 may belong to this period. No post-medieval pottery was recovered, although a few fragments of post-medieval roof tile suggest that some material was still being discarded in pits on the site in later centuries.

5.3 Ceramic building material

Sue Anderson

5.3.1 Introduction

A total of fifty-one fragments of CBM weighing 4744g was collected from six contexts. Table 4 presents the count and weight quantification by form. A full catalogue by context is included in Appendix 1.

Type	Form	form	No	Wt(g)
Roofing	Plain roof tile (med)	RTM	40	3664
	Plain roof tile (pmed)	RTP	6	311
	Plain roof tile (pmed)?	RTP?	2	141
	Ridge tile	RID	1	191
Walling	Early brick	EB	1	409
Miscellaneous	Garden tile?	GT	1	28
Totals			51	4744

Table 4. CBM by type

5.3.2 Methodology

The assemblage was quantified (count and weight) by fabric and form. Fabrics were identified on the basis of macroscopic appearance and main inclusions. The width, length and thickness of bricks and floor tiles were measured, but roof tile thicknesses were only measured when another dimension was available. Forms were identified from work in Norwich (Drury 1993), based on measurements. Other form terminology follows Brunskill's glossary (1990).

5.3.3 The assemblage

Roof tiles

Plain roof tiles make up the majority of the assemblage. Table 5 shows the quantities of roofing material by fabric. The most frequent fabrics are the medium sandy fabric with few inclusions, and those containing sparse to moderate flint and/or ferrous inclusions.

Fabric group	Code	RTM	RTP	RID
Estuarine with coarse sand	est(cs)	7		
Fine sandy	fs	5	6	1
Fine sandy with fine calcareous inclusions	fsc	1		
Fine sandy with clay pellets	fscp	13		
Fine sandy with coarse quartz	fscq	1		
Fine sandy with ferrous inclusions	fsfe		2	
Medium sandy	ms	12		
Medium sandy with calcareous inclusions	msc	1		
Totals		40	8	1

Table 5. Roofing tile by fabric

Of the forty-eight fragments of plain roof tile, forty are probably of medieval date, as is the ridge tile. This is based partly on fabric but also on firing (reduced cores and/or surfaces) and the presence of glaze. Red-firing tiles without any signs of reduction or glaze are classified as probably late or post-medieval.

Seven tiles (five med, two ?pmed) have circular peg holes, of which four are complete enough to determine that they have two peg holes. No tiles have square holes, and no nib tiles were identified. Several fragments have thin traces or larger patches of lime mortar, generally coloured buff or cream/white with sand aggregates, and in several cases this was on the broken edges, suggesting that the pieces had been reused in wall cores. The thin layer of lime on the undersides of the tiles from 0009 is probably related to their use in a drain, however, and not the remains of mortar.

Ten fragments from drain 0009 represented three medieval roof tiles, all in fabric fscp. Although not complete, it was possible to record three lengths, two widths and three thicknesses. The tiles are fairly uniform in size, at 244–248 x 158–161 x 13mm, and all have unusually large peg holes. It is likely that they came from a single batch and construction of the drain may have been their primary use, rather than being re-used demolition rubble.

An orange-glazed corner fragment from 0012 was probably a piece of medieval ridge tile. It was thicker than the contemporary roof tiles, at 16mm.

Bricks

One fragment of early brick in an estuarine clay fabric came from lower pit fill 0029. It measures 113mm x 47mm and has sand and sparse straw impressions on the base. Bricks of this type were used between the 13th and 15th centuries.

Miscellaneous

Pit fill 0031 contained a small fragment of scalloped-edged tile in a dark grey vitrified fabric of probable late Victorian date. The fragment is likely to be a piece of garden border tile, or possibly the rim of a chimney pot.

5.3.4 Discussion

Thirteen fragments, representing four medieval roof tiles, were collected as a sample from drain 0009. The remainder of this small assemblage was recovered from the fills of

five pits: 0011 (15 RTM, 1 RID); 0018 (5 RTM); 0021 (1 GT); 0049 (2 RTM) and 0061 (5 RTM, 8 RTP).

The tiles from the drain were substantially complete and had been deliberately used in the construction of this feature. The tiles were all in the same fabric and were probably part of a single batch, suggesting that they do not represent later re-use and indicating a medieval date (13th–15th c.) for the drain. The other features contained mainly small fragments of tile which probably represent the disposal of demolition and/or construction waste. Abrasion of some pieces indicates that they were probably lying around on a surface for some time before incorporation into the pit fills.

The presence of a high proportion of medieval roof tile in a small assemblage suggests that there was a substantial medieval structure on the site, as would be expected in this position within the town.

5.4 Fired clay

Eight fragments of fired clay were collected from two contexts, weighing a total of 52g. An undiagnostic fragment from the fill 0013 of pit 0018 is made in a fine orange fabric with frequent chalk inclusions and sparse flint with linear impressions of grass or straw. The fragment is probably medieval and may come from a feature such as an oven. It is accompanied by a second piece in a fine buff fabric containing silty pellets. Four very small and abraded fragments (5g) of a similar fabric were found in fill 0024 of pit 0023, along with two tiny sandier pieces which had chalk inclusions.

5.5 Lavastone

A single fragment of a grey vesicular lavastone which is probably Rhenish was recovered from 0029, the lower fill of pit 0004. It has lost most of its original surfaces apart from one face which shows a dressed surface, perhaps from the upper part of the stone. It is assumed that this is part of a hand-turned domestic quernstone. The piece was found with medieval pottery and medieval and post-medieval ceramic building material.

5.6 The small finds

Two small finds were recovered from the monitoring.

The first is a lozengiform copper alloy mount, which is gilded and enamelled probably from a harness (SF1001, Plate 8). It measures 46mm across its widest part and has a slightly tapering pin approximately 9mm long projecting from the back. Details of its decoration are obscure due to post-depositional conditions, but it is likely to have been subdivided into halves, possibly quadrants with yellow enamelling. The decoration may have an armorial theme but is no longer visible. The mount dates to the 13th-14th century, although they are sometimes found in the 15th century (Andrew Brown, pers. comm). It was found in the fill of a medieval pit or oven 0011.

A large sub-circular fragment (SF 1002) of stone from a medieval mortar was recovered from fill 0050 of 0049, a very large pit which contained pottery dating to the 12th-14th century. The mortar is made of a shelly limestone which is most probably Purbeck marble. It has two vertical lugs surviving and the remains of two handles. Its interior is worn smooth through usage towards the lower edge.



Plate 8. Copper alloy and enamelled medieval mount

6. The environmental evidence

6.1 Animal bone

Cathy Tester

Forty-two fragments of animal bone weighing 619g were recovered from nine contexts in eight features, all medieval pits. The condition of the bone is good and it was found with medieval-dated pottery in seven of the pits. The bone was quantified by count and weight by context and notes were made of the species and elements present. The bone was identified with reference to Hillson (1992).

Other descriptive comments regarding age and condition were made as required. The details by context are shown in Table 6 below.

Context	No	Wt./g	Notes
0012	3	29	Bird: clavicle; Medium mammal: longbone
0013	2	16	Sheep: rib and metacarpal
0016	2	76	Cattle: right femur distal end, unfused + 2 longbone frags
0017	7	6	Small mammal: long bone & metapodial +misc (SS2)
0024	6	62	Cattle: proximal phalange; Sheep: metatarsal (unfused distal end); Medium mammal: long bone & rib; Small mammal: scapula & misc
0029	5	217	Cattle: mandible and teeth; Sheep: humerus
0031	1	9	Sheep: metatarsal (unfused distal end)
0048	3	4	Bird: longbone fragments
0050	13	200	Bird: bones; Cattle: mandible and teeth; Large mammal: rib (burnt); Medium mammal: ribs

Table 6. Animal bone by context

Species identified are cattle, sheep and bird (probably domestic fowl) and some bone could be broadly identified as 'large, medium or small mammal.' Bone from young animals was identified in three features, as indicated by the presence of one cattle (0016) and two sheep (0024 and 0031) longbones with unfused distal ends. Burnt bone was found in context 0050. The assemblage is small but probably represents the remains of domestic food waste.

6.2 Shell

The remains of three oyster shells were found in the backfilling 0012 of a pit or oven 0011. Three whelk shells were present in fill 0050 of medieval pit 0049.

7. Discussion of the finds and environmental evidence

The finds from the monitoring at Abbeygate Street were recovered mostly from a series of medieval pits. Analysis of the pottery assemblage showed that there was a comparatively high percentage of glazed wares, a feature associated with other high status groups excavated in the centre of the town. The presence of a decorated enamelled mount can also be seen to reflect a degree of affluence. The pits and their contents collectively contribute to the larger picture of medieval land-use in the centre of Bury St Edmunds.

8. General discussion

From the excavated and monitored evidence it is possible to suggest the development of the site from the early medieval period.

The single sherd of Ipswich ware pottery from pit 0015 was residual and is insufficient to suggest development of Abbeygate Street at this time. It could easily represent manuring waste or simply rubbish disposal from settlement elsewhere. It is worth noting however, that an isolated burial dating from the 7th -8th century (BP 1350±50 cal AD 615-745 2σ or AD651-689 1σ).was recovered from excavations on Lower Baxter Street immediately north of the present site (Tester 2001 p 3).

The earliest feature is pit 0023, which contained substantial quantities of a single pot dat to the 12th -13th century suggesting that it was a primary deposition,. The pit appears to mark the northern extent of a laid floor in section 7 suggesting that this was either the end of a contemporary building, or an extension to the rear of it. Projected onto section 7 were two timbers illustrating the relative location of the end of one timber extension and the commencement of another. These do not align with the end of floor 0026 in the section below and are therefore evidence that the extant timber extension is not related to the one exposed below ground, which was probably earlier.

Pit 0015 aligned approximately east-west with pit 0023 and there was natural silt and gravel both to the south and east of it; the absence of pits may indicate the site of standing buildings fronting onto Abbeygate Street in the medieval period. The many pits that were excavated suggest general rubbish and cess disposal between the 12th to

14th centuries including the area of what later became timber extensions, which is demonstrated by pits 0039 and 0041 and by the features beneath the wall of the extension. Two probable and one very clear ovens were positioned beneath the later wall line of the timber extensions; presumably the location in the yard minimised the risk of fire to the timber building on the street frontage. The oven sequence was 0032, 0008 and 0011. Oven 0032 is likely to have been a malting kiln given the grain debris found as a primary fill. 0008 is perhaps less specific with quite widespread burning of the clay, which would be consistent with the more intense and penetrating fire of a general oven. Feature 0011 was poorly defined consisting of a pit with no obvious lining and a heavily burnt eastern lip. The structure of this oven was above ground and therefore missing from the archaeological record. It is worth noting that all three ovens were partially under the later timber kitchen extension.

The many pits extending to the back of the site suggest continuous, domestic type activity through to at least the 14th century with no evidence to identify any specific craft or manufacturing activity.

A clue to the above ground structure of the medieval street frontage is provided by the course of drain 0009. It was found on Upper Baxter Street, where the evidence was well preserved (BSE 183 above), that a similar drain from the rear of the property was directed underneath an entrance passage (presumably covered by boards). Applied here it would locate a doorway, on the eastern side of the plot, possibly with a flying freehold, between the medieval timber houses that once faced onto Abbeygate Street. The head of the drain aligns with the end of the standing building extension to the east and was almost directly below a c.18th-19th century drain in white bricks that was removed during the site strip. It is reasonable to suggest that the earlier drain fulfilled the same function in taking water from the eaves of the neighbouring property.

It is possible that most if not all of the pits and ovens predated the extension ranges that are still standing. Certainly the yard area would have been extremely cramped and the sequence of pits may end as early as the 14th century. Whatever the arrangements for dealing with cess and general waste from the 15th century the site was surely dominated by well 0054 which was substantial, almost blocking the rear of the site.

The standing building extensions occur in sequence back from the site. Although built in three stages the second of these appears to retain more of the original construction, as depicted in PI 8, where the removal of external render has exposed original wattles.



Plate 9. Looking south at rear of property

Three phases of timber extension are visible; the gap between the first extension post and the Georgian house was wedged with tiles inserted between the brick and the timber to keep them steady. An original infill of plaster over wattles was extant at first floor level in the middle extension and the last timber extension (built off a dwarf brick wall which has been repaired with inserted timbers including fragments of a mullion window).

From the excavation evidence it might be thought that the intensity of pit digging could reflect on the fortunes of the site with a falloff in activity from the 14th century but this was probably not the case. A suggested sequence for the development of the site would be: several phases of street front timber building with the last likely to have been jettied with a passageway and flying freehold between neighbouring houses either side and cess pits to the rear, and also ovens for domestic and possibly commercial use: this was followed by a sequence of timber extensions in the late medieval period. The first was a kitchen range, as it was until the present development, which made the space in the yard cramped and this simply housed a substantial stone finished well. Cess pits and rubbish disposal could have moved to the rear of the site and it is possible that there was a side entrance to the property on Lower Baxter Street. The replacement of

the street front jetty building by a fine Georgian House confirms a change in the use of the site by the 18th century and perhaps the kitchen range extension was adapted for use by a private household. The smaller brick extension at the rear of the site was entirely contained within No.20 and functioned as a workshop for the jewellers, which went out of use only recently.

9. Recommendations for further work

No further work has been identified for this site. The results do not justify publication in isolation, however, the site archive contains significant data, which could contribute to a wider publication on the medieval town.

10. Archive deposition

Paper archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Bury St Edmunds\ BSE 442 20 Abbeygate Street monitoring report.

Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds.

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Appendix 1 - Context List

Context No	Feature No	Feature Type	Description/Interpretation	Finds	Overall Date	Env. Sample	Trench
0001	0002	Linear Fill	dark grey fill of robbed out medieval drain fill of robbed drain	No		No	
0002	0002	Linear Cut	up to 0.6m wide and 3.6m long cut of robber trench	No		No	
0003	0004	Pit Fill	mid grey/brown silty clay general rubbish fill	Yes	L12th-14th C	No	
0004	0004	Pit Cut	Roughly circular 1.5m across excavated to a depth of 0.5m large pit, straight sided therefore a long way still to go.	No		No	
0005	0005	Pit Cut	Roughly circular pattern of stones beyond disturbance area. Probable pit, but not excavated	No		No	
0006		Layer	Area of clay possibly part of oven but not threatened and not excavated	No		No	
0007	0008	oven Fill	rubbish fill with clay surround. Hard secondary floor of burnt clay at c.o.3m deep at depth. Broken through in sondage showing first phase a lot deeper.	Yes	L12th-14th C	No	
0008	0008	oven Cut	'Gourd' shaped oven with yellow clay lining all around. At least 2.7m in length with bowl c.i.4m circular and aligned north south. Underlies building extension and therefore earlier. oven possibly malting/	No		No	
0009	0009	drain Cut	surviving length of tile lined drain that ran south along eastern edge of property. Peg tiles with two holes. Measured complete (but broken on site. 250 x 160 mm roughly. Sample fitting together brought back. early drain directed towards Abbeygate Street. Starts against northern boundary possibly property edge 0022 flint and mortar wall. Similar to drain on Baxter Street. Clearly predates Georgian frontage? Robbing trench 0002 for most of drain	Yes	13th-15th C	No	
0010	0010	Linear Layer	Spread of mixed chalk with large flints, suggest consolidation layer over multiple pits and bits of oven. Cut by robbing trench 0002 and post med drain shown on surface plan. Over 0021 pit (fill 0020)	No		No	

Context No	Feature No	Feature Type	Description/Interpretation	Finds	Overall Date	Env. Sample	Trench
0011	0011	Pit Cut	Large pit suggested to be part of an oven. Burnt face of pit on east side with burning spreading over the top of pit 0018 where the burning is deep indicating flu of oven, possible structure on top missing which is suggested by shape of burning on the surface. Underlies wall line of extension and therefore earlier Q: No clay around pit intact so was this a simple use of a pit or a degraded oven? Answers on a postcard!	No		No	
0012	0011	Pit Fill	backfill of pit/oven. Very hard to dig out with many large flints and clay possibly rammed in to consolidate ground. Layer of tiles towards surface broken and compressed. Samples of tile taken, quite fragmented but all predating building extension	Yes	13th-15th C	No	
0013	0018	Pit Fill	this is the top fill of pit 0018. It stands on top of a deep solid chalk cap, 0019, which was at least a foot thick and densely packed. 0013 seems to be the top settling layer for what was probably a deep pit or maybe a well? Only taken down about 0.5m. Was cut by pit 0015 on the south side. In section it shows that this top layer was burnt through to a depth of c.0.2m where an oven must have stood at ground level. It was cut by pit 0011. This layer same as 0014	Yes	13th-15th C	No	
0014	0018	Pit Fill	Same as 0013	No		No	
0015	0015	Pit Cut	squarish pit, visible on surface cutting pit 0018. cuts layers 0013 and 0014 of pit 0018. Measured at least 1m across but was probably about 1.2m. Was only 0.5m deep from excavated surface with a single fill. natural reddish brown silt and gravel exposed. It cut a pit on the south east side which was identified but not excavated. will perhaps turn up under the most southerly stanchion.	No		No	
0016	0015	Pit Fill	mixed fill with clay and silt some burning throughout and plenty of finds. Forms bulk of soil sample (1) although slightly mixed with layer 0013 and 0014. Still sample worth looking at for general picture of fills likely to be close in date and representative of features from this area.	Yes	L12th-14th C	No	
0017	0011	Pit Fill	Lowest fill possible fragments of a lining but not clear. may just be backfilling of clay with flints, some burning in fill, majority of context under standing building	Yes	L11th-13th C	No	
0017	0011	Pit Fill	Lowest fill possible fragments of a lining but not clear. may just be backfilling of clay with flints, some burning in fill, majority of context under standing building	Yes		No	

Context No	Feature No	Feature Type	Description/Interpretation	Finds	Overall Date	Env. Sample	Trench
0018	0018	Pit Cut	Large squarish pit. Cut bt pits 0015 and pit/oven 0011. 1.6m x 1.2m	No		No	
0019	0018	Pit Fill	crushed chalk cap over deep pit or well.	No		No	
0020	0021	oven Fill	upper fill only, (lower fill not exposed) of pit 0012. fill cut by pit 0004 and by primary oven structure 0008.	No		No	
0021	0021	Pit Cut	Pit probably circular but only a small slice of pie exposed. Mid greenish brown silty clay. Patches of yellow brown sandy clay. under oven 0008 and cut by pit 0004.	No		No	
0022	0022	Wall Other	dwarf wall of flint and pale yellow/orange mortar. Short length conforms to width of tile-bottomed drain therefore likely to be part of drain.	No		No	
0023	0023	Pit Cut	Oval? Shaped pit in 2 x 0.6m stanchion hole excavated in extension. covered partly by floor or surface 0025. Interesting marks a difference between rammed earth floor to the east and chalk surface to the west. see position of extension timbers on plan.	No		No	
0024	0023	Pit Fill	red/brown silt with much chalk. Contained band of charcoal containing lots of	Yes	12th-13th C	No	
0025	0025	Surface Layer	0.2m thick layer of crushed chalk. internal floor to extension or yard surface suggest former. slump slightly into top of pit 0023	No		No	
0026	0026	Floor Layer	Suggest rammed earth floor inside building extension. On top of a few horizontal ashey layers. Finishes at end of one phase of extension. Pit 0023 on the outside.	No		No	
0027	0027	Pit Cut	steep pit. Cuts pit 0023. in internal stanchion excavation	No		No	
0028	0027	Pit Fill	Friable mix of green/brown silt with lots of chalk.	No		No	
0029	0004	Pit Fill	Lower fill of pit 0004 finds recovered during digging of expanded stanchion footing.	Yes	L 12th-E14th	No	

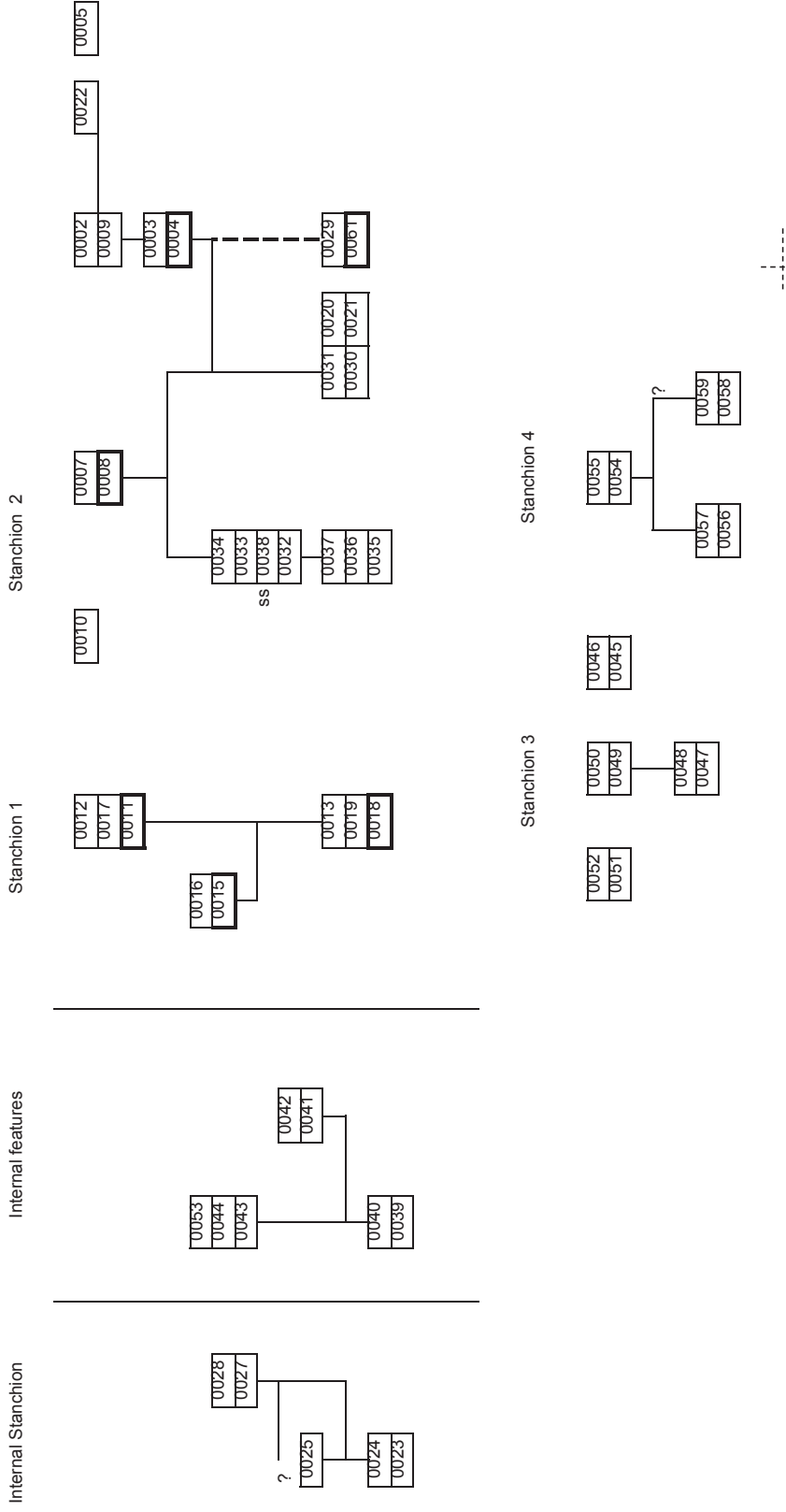
Context No	Feature No	Feature Type	Description/Interpretation	Finds	Overall Date	Env. Sample	Trench
0030	0030	Pit Cut	large pit, c.1.8m on surface. With much chalk, possible lining. Cut by pit 0021 and 0004 and probably 0032. also below oven 0008.	No		No	
0031	0030	Pit Fill	Fill of large pit. Not bottomed at 1.1m. Much chalk almost solid towards the base with layer of grey ash(?) above. Green brown silt above. layer of burning between bands of chalk but suggest just fill variation rather than structure	Yes	12th-14th C b	No	
0032	0032	Oven Cut	pit 0.7m deep from site surface. Lined very clearly with chalky clay, probably re-used and about 0.15-0.2m thick. Break in clay and thick layer of burnt grain towards base (0033 and sampled, sample 2). cut by oven 0008. Overlying pit 0035. Suggest this was part of an oven not fully defined based on lining. Burnt grain possibly not incidental.	No		No	
0033	0032	layer Fill	layer of almost solid burnt grain (barley?). Spillage from malting kiln. Sample 2. large proportion of layer. About a half a bucket	Yes	L11th-13th C	No	
0033	0032	layer Fill	layer of almost solid burnt grain (barley?). Spillage from malting kiln. Sample 2. large proportion of layer. About a half a bucket	Yes		No	
0034	0032	layer Fill	upper mixed fill of pit/structure with much clay and brown loam. Cut by oven 0008, over layer 0033	No		No	
0035	0035	Pit Cut	Pit suggest close to base at 1.1m from excavated surface, small amount exposed but quite large. Upper fill like natural, reddish brown silt but with less gravel. Probable cess pit. Cut by 0032, relationship with pit 0030 uncertain.	No		No	
0036	0035	Pit Fill	lower fill of pit feels organic green tinge and suggesteave of cess. Small sample taken but not much charcoal. over cut 0035 and under layer 0037.	No		No	
0037	0035	Pit Fill	below oven 0008 and pit 0032. Mistakeable for natural reddish brown silt with few flints gradual colour change between this and lower fill with some charcoal and becoming greeny.Over 0036	No		No	
0038	0032	Pit Layer	lining of pit consisting of chalky clay, possibly re-used and 0.2m approx thick. Difficult to distinguish where meets chalky layers from pit 0030 (rushed due to concreting.	No		No	
0039	0039	Pit Cut	Pit beneath floor of second timber extension. Not dug. Cut by pit 0042. Sealed by ash layer 0043 and floor 0044	No		No	

Context No	Feature No	Feature Type	Description/Interpretation	Finds	Overall Date	Env. Sample	Trench
0040	0039	Pit Fill	upper fill of pit containing some clay and ash	No		No	
0041	0041	Pit Cut	Pit not dug. C. 0.8m circular cutting pit 0039	No		No	
0042	0041	Pit Fill	Upper fill of gree-brown silt	No		No	
0043	0043	Layer Layer	burning layer possibly spread ash etc from open hearths to rear of early extension. Seals pit 0039	No		No	
0044	0044	Floor Layer	Brickearth floor beneath second extension, internal, above level of floor 0026 of first extension.	No		No	
0045	0045	Pit Cut	Circular pit vertical sided 0.8m wide	No		No	
0046	0045	Pit Fill	Green/brown fill with some ash but suggest homogenous cess pit fill, no sign of bottom	No		No	
0047	0047	Pit Cut	Edge of pit, cut by pit 0049	No		No	
0048	0047	Pit Fill	mixed fill very sooty in parts most removed by pit 0049	Yes	12th-14th C	No	
0049	0049	Pit Cut	very large pit one square corner showing, near vertical, cuts pit 0047.	No		No	
0050	0049	Pit Fill	mixed fill of dark silt with clay and some chalk. C. half way down in section remains of purbeck marble?mortar recovered by builder.	Yes	12th-14th C	No	
0051	0051	Pit Cut	Pit running beneath last extension wall, sealed by grey/mixed clay and probable clay floor of building	No		No	
0052	0051	Pit Fill	more grey than brown pit fill with plenty of mixed clay in fill.	No		No	

Context No	Feature No	Feature Type	Description/Interpretation	Finds	Overall Date	Env. Sample	Trench
0053	0052	sill beam wood	wooden sill underper pinning kitchen extension. With bricks on top.	No	No	No	No
0054	0054	Well Cut	large well c. 1.8m wide. Walls of orange mortar with medium sized flints mostly under 0.1m wide. Wall width c. 0.15-0.3m wide, no tile or flint in build. Sits centrally within yard. Suggest Late med to Early post-med.	No	No	No	No
0055	0054	Well Fill	Dark friable silty fill with post-med tile occasional flints (not seen during excavation) on appearance is post-med.	No	No	No	No
0056	0056	Pit Cut	Steep cut pit, cut by well 0054 and drain running under building.	No	No	No	No
0057	0056	Pit Fill	Fine grey silt /clay fill with some chalk. Not excavated. Planned at c. 0.6m below rising yard surface.	No	No	No	No
0058	0058	Pit Cut	Pit in corner of trench running beneath wall with neighbouring property.	No	No	No	No
0059	0058	Pit Fill	see photograph. Consolidated fill dark brown, suggest medieval on appearance!	No	No	No	No
0099				No	No	No	No

Appendix 2. Site matrix

MATRIX BSE422



Appendix 3. Pottery catalogue

Context	Fabric	Form name	Rim	No	Wt/g	Spot date / fabric date range
0003	MCW			2	17	12th-14th c.
0003	MCW	jar		3	96	12th-14th c.
0003	MCW	jar	FTBD	1	21	13th c.
0003	BCSW			2	14	12th-13th c.
0003	BMCW			16	172	12th-14th c.
0003	BMCW	jar	FTEV	2	92	13th-E.14th c.
0003	BMCWG			1	8	12th-14th c.
0003	UPG			2	24	L.12th-14th c.+
0003	HFW1			2	23	M.12th-M.13th c.
0007	BMCW			1	8	12th-14th c.
0007	UPG			1	22	L.12th-14th c.
0007	GRIM			1	15	L.12th-14th c.
0007	FREN?			1	7	Med
0013	GRCW			1	3	11th-M.13th c.
0013	BMCW			4	29	12th-14th c.
0016	GIPS			1	12	650-850
0016	MCWG			1	17	12th-13th c?
0016	GRCW			2	13	11th-M.13th c.
0016	BMCW			7	64	12th-14th c.
0016	HCWF			1	2	L.12th-13th c.
0016	GRIM			1	19	L.12th-14th c.
0016	HFW1			2	12	M.12th-13th c.
0024	BMCW			3	26	12th-14th c.
0024	BMCW	jar	EVBD	6	180	(12th-)13th c.
0024	BMCWG			4	12	12th-13th c.
0029	HCW			1	13	L.12th-13th c.
0029	HCW	jar	FTEV	2	33	13th-E.14th c.
0029	HFW1			1	56	M.12th-13th c.
0031	GRCW			1	35	11th-M.13th c.
0031	BMCW			3	51	12th-14th c.
0031	BMSW			1	18	12th-13th?
0048	MCW			2	85	12th-14th c.
0048	BMCW			4	117	12th-14th c.
0050	MCW			1	7	12th-14th c.
0050	BSFW			2	33	13th-14th c.?
0050	BMCW			3	72	12th-14th c.

Notes: FTBD – flat-topped bead; FTEV – flat-topped everted; EVBD – everted beaded

Appendix 5. CBM catalogue

Context	Fabric	Form	No	Wt	Length	Width	Height	Abr	Peg shape	Mortar	glaze	Notes	Date
0009	fscp	RTM	4	801	245	158	13		R(2)	thin on base		=1 tile, v large peg holes	med
0009	fscp	RTM	4	735	248	161	13		R(2)	thin on base		=1 tile, v large peg holes	med
0009	fscp	RTM	2	421	244		13		R(2)	thin on base & break		=1 tile, v large peg holes	med
0009	fscp	RTM	3	308						thin on base		=1 tile	med
0012	ms	RTM	10	606					1 X R(2)	thin on some		reduced cores, thin	med
0012	ms	RTM	2	111					1 X R	thin on some		reduced cores & surfaces, thin	med
0012	fs	RTM	1	65				+		thin on surfaces & breaks			med
0012	fscq	RTM	1	44				+				reduced core	med
0012	est	RTM	1	19					1 X R	thin on breaks			med
0012	fs	RID	1	191			16				O		med
0013	est	RTM	3	100									med
0013	fs	RTM	1	92						yellow ms		reduced core	med
0013	fsc	RTM	1	22								reduced core, thin, fine calc	med
0029	est	EB	1	409		113	47					sand & occ straw on base	med
0029	est	RTM	3	147									med
0029	fs	RTM	1	85				+					med
0029	msc	RTM	1	60				+				burnt	med
0029	fs	RTP	4	82								=1 tile?, sparse Fe	pmed
0029	fsfe	RTP	2	229								=1 tile	pmed
0029	fs	RTP?	2	141					1 X R			=1 tile, sooted edge	pmed?
0031	fscq	GT	1	28								vit dark grey shaped garden edging tile? Or poss chimney frag	19+
0050	fs	RTM	2	48				+				reduced core	med

Economy, Skills and Environment
9–10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP33 1RX

Brief for Continuous Archaeological Recording

AT

19-20 ABBEYGATE STREET, BURY ST EDMUNDS, SUFFOLK

PLANNING AUTHORITY: St Edmundsbury Borough Council
PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER: SE/13/0414
SHER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT: To be arranged
GRID REFERENCE: TL 8541 6423
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL: Erection of an extension, terrace and other alterations.
AREA: Small
CURRENT LAND USE: Urban yard/garden
THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY: Abby Antrobus
Archaeological Officer
Conservation Team
Tel: 01284 741231
E-mail: abby.antrobus@suffolk.gov.uk
Date: 14 October 2013

Archaeological Background

- 1.1 The proposal affects a site of archaeological interest and potential, within the historic core of the medieval town of Bury St Edmunds (County Historic Environment Record BSE 241). Abbeygate Street was a main thoroughfare in the medieval town and the site has potential for archaeological remains which relate to social and economic life in the early town. Any groundworks associated with the proposed development have the potential to cause significant damage or destruction to any archaeological deposits that exist.
- 1.2 The significant archaeologically damaging activity in this proposal is the excavation of building footings and service trenches, and terracing. The ground preparation for the car park is not anticipated to involve deep excavation. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists, along with the information that it holds on evidence for early occupation on the site.

Planning Background

- 2.1 In accordance with paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework, planning permission has been granted with the following condition:

‘No development shall take place until a programme of archaeological work has been secured, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.’

This will record and advance understanding of the significance of heritage assets that might be present at this location before they are damaged or destroyed.

- 2.2 The archaeological contractor must submit a copy of their Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) or Method Statement, based upon this brief of minimum requirements, to the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council’s Archaeological Service (SCCAS/CT); SCCAS/CT is the advisory body to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) on archaeological issues.
- 2.3 The WSI should be approved before costs are agreed with the commissioning client, in line with Institute for Archaeologists’ guidance. Failure to do so could result in additional and unanticipated costs.
- 2.4 Following acceptance, SCCAS/CT will advise the LPA that an appropriate scheme of work is in place, and recommend discharge of condition 3 on the application to allow work to commence. The WSI, however, is not a sufficient basis for discharge of condition 4 relating to reporting. Only the full implementation of the scheme (completion of fieldwork and reporting), will enable SCCAS/CT to advise the LPA that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.
- 2.5 The WSI will provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met.

Requirement for Archaeological Investigation

- 3.1 Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that it will be adequate for the groundworks undertaken by the building contractor to be continuously monitored and recorded by a trained archaeologist.
- 3.2 Any ground works, and also the upcast soil, are to be closely monitored during and after excavation by the archaeological contractor in order to ensure no damage occurs any heritage assets. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation.
- 3.3 The archaeological investigation should provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent. Opportunity must be given to the archaeological contractor to hand excavate and record any archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations.
- 3.4 The method and form of development should be also monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.
- 3.5 If unexpected remains are encountered SCCAS/CT must be informed immediately. Amendments to this brief may be required to ensure adequate

provision for archaeological recording. This could include the need for archaeological excavation of parts of the site which would otherwise be damaged or destroyed.

Arrangements for Archaeological Investigation

- 4.1 All arrangements for the excavation of the site, the timing of the work and access to the site, are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.
- 4.2 The project manager must also carry out a risk assessment and ensure that all potential risks are minimised, before commencing the fieldwork. The responsibility for identifying any constraints on fieldwork (e.g. designated status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites and ecological considerations) rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor.

Reporting and Archival Requirements

- 5.1 The project manager must consult the Suffolk HER Officer to obtain an event number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.
- 5.2 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared and must be adequate to perform the function of a final archive for deposition in the Archaeological Service's Store or in a suitable museum in Suffolk.
- 5.3 It is expected that the landowner will deposit the full site archive, and transfer title to, the Archaeological Service or the designated Suffolk museum, and this should be agreed before the fieldwork commences. The intended depository should be stated in the WSI, for approval. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate. Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with guidelines from the Institute of Conservation (ICON).
- 5.4 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation (including the digital archive), and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.
- 5.5 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service, or similar digital archive repository, and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).
- 5.6 A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of MoRPHE, must be provided. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers 3, 8 and 24, 1997, 2000 and 2011). **Reporting should be commensurate with results. When no significant features or finds are found, a short report will be sufficient** with the following information: location (grid ref., parish, address), planning application number and type of development, date(s) of visit(s), methodology, plan showing areas observed in

relation to ground disturbance/proposed development (a digital vector plan when possible), depth of ground disturbance and soil profile in each area, observations as to land use history (truncation etc), recorder and organisation, date of report.

- 5.7 An unbound hardcopy of the report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated. Following acceptance, a single hard copy and also a .pdf digital copy should be presented to the Suffolk HER.
- 5.8 Where appropriate, a digital vector plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the Suffolk HER. AutoCAD files should also be exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a .dxf or .TAB files).
- 5.9 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. When the project is completed, all parts of the OASIS online form must be completed and a copy must be included in the final report and also with the site archive. A .pdf version of the entire report should be uploaded.
- 5.10 Where positive results are drawn from a project, a summary report must be prepared, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 5.11 A copy of the WSI should be appended to the report.
- 5.12 This brief remains valid for 12 months. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the brief may need to be revised and re-issued to take account of new discoveries, changes in policy and techniques.

Standards and Guidance

Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003. The Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

Notes

The Institute of Archaeologists maintains a list of registered archaeological contractors (www.archaeologists.net or 0118 3 78 6446). There are a number of archaeological contractors that regularly undertake work in the County and SCCAS will provide advice on request. SCCAS/CT does not give advice on the costs of archaeological projects.

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OASIS ID: suffolkc1-177157

Project details

Project name	BSE 442 19-20 Abbeygate Street Excavation and Monitoring, Bury St Edmunds
Short description of the project	The site stripping and the excavation of several large stanchions to support a building conversion and the infilling of an open yard at No.20 Abbeygate Street were archaeologically recorded by a combination of excavation and monitoring. The work took place behind the Georgian House which occupies the street frontage. A total of eighteen pits (including at least three ovens) were identified in an area a little over 30 square metres with the majority dating from the 12th to 15th centuries. Many of these run beneath the timber extensions that began to appear from the 16th century and the ovens in the yard may well have been replaced by a kitchen extension (a Victorian range was extant in the middle extension when building work began). The size of the open yard was further reduced when a drain, built of mortar and with a peg tile base, was constructed alongside the neighbouring property to the east where it probably directed water, from an extension towards Abbeygate Street (the drain is likely to have ran either between two street front properties or beneath a covered passageway between the two). The timber extensions were retained when a single Georgian House was built over two medieval properties (No. 19 - 20) although the division has been reinstated in more recent times.
Project dates	Start: 09-04-2014 End: 17-04-2014
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	BSE 442 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	BSE 442 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	SE/13/0414 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	2014/062 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Monument type	OVENS Medieval
Monument type	PITS Medieval

Monument type	SURFACES/FLOORS Medieval
Monument type	DRAIN Medieval
Monument type	WALL Medieval
Monument type	WELL Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC Early Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMICS Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Medieval
Significant Finds	ROOF TILES Medieval
Significant Finds	ROOF TILES Post Medieval
Significant Finds	FIRED CLAY Medieval
Significant Finds	QUERN Medieval
Significant Finds	MOUNT Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL REMAINS Medieval
Significant Finds	SHELL Medieval
Investigation type	"Part Excavation", "Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK ST EDMUNDSBURY BURY ST EDMUNDS BSE 442 19-20 Abbeygate Street Excavation and Monitoring
Postcode	IP33 1UN
Study area	120.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 8541 6423 52.2445091708 0.716120499728 52 14 40 N 000 42 58 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Dr Abby Antrobus
Project director/manager	Andrew Tester
Project supervisor	Andrew Tester
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mothersole Builders

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Physical Archive	BSE 442

ID

Physical Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Metal","Worked stone/lithics"

Digital Archive recipient Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

Digital Archive ID BSE 442

Digital Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Metal","Worked stone/lithics","other"

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"

Paper Archive recipient Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

Paper Archive ID BSE 442

Paper Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Metal","Worked stone/lithics","other"

Paper Media available "Context sheet","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

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Other bibliographic details SCCAS Report no. 2014/062

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